Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently amended) A method of controlling use of program content, said method comprising:

receiving program content;

storing said program content in memory;

storing a rule for determining whether said program content in memory may be played;

receiving a first time out message operable for use with said rule, wherein said first time out message comprises <u>a system time of day value and</u> a time out limit indicating a time of day value by which an update message must be received;

<u>calculating a current time of day based on the system time of day value and a local clock of a client device;</u>

enforcing said rule by disabling playback of said program content in memory.

2.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein said disabling playback of said program content comprises reducing the quality of the playback of the program content.

3.   Canceled

4.   (Currently amended) The method as described in claim [[3]] 1 and further comprising:

synchronizing [[a]] the client device computer to said system time via said system time of day value in said first time out message.

5-6.   Canceled

7.   (Currently amended) The method as described in claim 1 wherein said enforcing said rule comprises:

determining a current time of day;

comparing said current time of day to said time out limit;

checking for a second time out message, said second time out message comprising a second system time of day value and a second time out limit;

disabling playback of said program content if said second time out message is not received prior to said time out limit.

8.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:

receiving a second time message;

re-enabling playback of said program content after receipt of said second time out message.

9.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:

entering into a digital rights rental agreement to allow receipt of said program content.

10.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein said disabling

playback comprises:

disabling playback of some program content while not disabling

playback of other program content.

11.   (Currently amended) The method as described in claim [[3]]1 and

further comprising:

synchronizing a local clock to a system clock by utilizing said time of

day value.

12.   (Currently amended) The method as described in claim [[3]]1 and

further comprising:

utilizing a local clock and said system time of day value to compute a

current time of day.

13.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 and further comprising:

receiving a second time out message comprising a second system time

of day value;

disabling playback if the current time of day is later than the second

system time of day value in the second time out message.

14.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for controlling use of program

content, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver operable for receiving program content from a content distributor <u>and for receiving a time out message comprising a time of day value and an expiration time of day value</u>;

a memory for storing said program content;

code operable for implementing a rule for determining whether said program content in memory may be played;

a processor coupled with said memory <u>for calculating a current time of day based on the time of day value and a local clock of a client device</u>;

code operable for enforcing a rule coupled to said apparatus wherein said rule disables playback of said program content if a time out message is not received prior to ~~a time of day value indicated by a~~ <u>the expiration time of day value indicated by the</u> previous time out message.

15.   (Currently amended) A method of controlling use of program content, said method comprising:

receiving program content from a content distribution server;

storing said program content in memory coupled to client computer;

storing a digital rights management rule for determining whether said program content in memory may be played by said client;

receiving a first time message, said first time message comprising a system time of day value and an expiration time of day value;

applying said digital rights management rule, wherein said applying comprises:

~~determining~~ <u>calculating</u> a current time of day <u>based on the system time of day value and a local clock of the client computer</u>;

comparing said current time of day to said expiration time of

day;

checking for a second time message, said second time message

comprising a second system time of day value and a second expiration time of day

value;

disabling playback of said program content if said second time

message is not received prior to said expiration time of day value.

16.   (Original) The method as described in claim 15 wherein said disabling

playback comprises reducing the quality of the playback of said program content.

17.   (Original) The method as described in claim 15 and further

comprising:

receiving said second time message;

re-enabling playback of said program content after receipt of said

second time message.

18.   (Original) The method as described in claim 15 and further

comprising:

entering into a digital rights rental agreement to allow use of the

program material.

19.   (Original) The method as described in claim 15 wherein said disabling

playback comprises:

disabling playback of some program content while not disabling playback of other program content.

20.   (Original) The method as described in claim 15 and further comprising:

synchronizing a local clock to a system clock.

21.   Canceled

22.   (Original) The method as described in claim 15 and further comprising:

disabling playback if the current time of day is later than the second system time of day value in the second time message.

23.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for controlling use of program content, said apparatus comprising:

a receiver for receiving program content from a content distribution server and for receiving a first time message comprising a system time of day value and an expiration time of day value;

memory for storing said program content;

code operable for applying a digital rights management rule, wherein said code for applying said rule comprises:

code operable for determining calculating a current time of day based on the system time of day value and a local clock of a client device;

code operable for comparing said current time of day to [[an]] the expiration time of day value received in a first time message, said first time message comprising said expiration time of day value and a system time of day value;

code operable for checking for a second time message, said second time message comprising a second system time of day value and a second expiration time of day value;

code operable for disabling playback of said program content if said second time message is not received prior to said expiration time of day value.